

Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District
Supervisory Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, 6:30 pm

USDA Service Center, 28 Vernon Street, Suite 332, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Hybrid Meeting

Present: Cory Ross, Executive Director; Abby Reed, AmeriCorps Conservation Assistant; Arrow Branwen, Administrative Assistant; Kate McKay, Avian Technician; Meg Kluge, Linda Corse, Katie Morrison, board supervisors; Nina Halsted, resident and CCCD Community Engagement & Communications Coordinator

Zoom Participants: Heather Blunk, Agricultural Specialist; Pieter van Loon, board supervisor; Olivia Carlson

Land Acknowledgement: *We respectfully acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Abenaki People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.*

Review Agenda for Additions or Changes

- No changes

New Business

1. NRCS Updates - Olivia Carlson

- a. Passed ranking days on April 10th for AMA, RCPP, and EQIP fund pools
 - i. Windham Local fund pool forest management plans for \$25,000
 1. Four Applications assessed, might be better for comparing closer to preapprovals
 - ii. Windham local fund pool forests:
 1. 20 Applications for \$350,000 local fund pool
 - iii. Small scale ag local fund pool of \$200,000, 22 applicants ranked of \$900,000
 - iv. CSP ranking deadline May 8th; April 23rd south zone ranking day
- b. Conservation planning training, register through Aglearn, hybrid format
- c. Public portal shows different type of practices and state funding Vermont has done
 - i. Might be good to pull data when submitting grant applications

2. Volunteer Waiver - Board to Potentially Approve Volunteer Waiver

- a. Wanted something to use for tree plantings and water chestnut pulling and other events with volunteers involved.

- b. Isabel put it together using other legal waiver forms, could have VLCT look at it if needed
 - i. **Meg moves to approve waiver**
 - ii. **Pieter seconded 6:43PM**
- c. Meg thinks it seems pretty standard, from experience
- d. A non perfect waiver better than no waiver
 - i. **Everyone in favor, none opposed, passed 6:47PM**

On-Going Items

1. Update from Budget and Building Acquisition Subcommittee

- a. One of the spaces has another interested party for one of the spaces under consideration
- b. Not gone yet, but a decision needed in a couple of weeks
- c. Waiting on several uncertain funding decisions, NACD funds might be in question unexpectedly
- d. Might be helpful to put on a capital-raising campaign, might not be the right time
- e. Tabled for another month
 - i. **Motion to convene a special meeting of building acquisition subcommittee to make final decision about office space rental and sign lease when Cory gets new information about funding**
 - 1. **Motion withdrawn - board decided to just convene a special board meeting when decision needs to be made**

2. Technical Service Provider Work

- a. Had a good meeting with NFWF
- b. Being told that dairy farms aren't getting funded, you guys should apply for funds to take care of that problem
- c. Getting steering committee meeting to weigh in next week
- d. Envisioning a proposal to fund easy work for dairy farms, and also grazing plans, certified NMP plans for dairy farms - this language got dropped from last meeting with NFWF
- e. Not really TSP work actually, because funded differently - but similar kind of work
- f. Can't fund implementation - but could fund planning
- g. Going to ask Stonyfield what work they need help with
- h. Districts might not be able to be TSPs - law against municipalities competing with private companies - but VACD might be able to subcontract the work to us

3. 2026 Plant Sale and Plant Palooza Planning

- a. 8 organizations tabling, master gardeners attending
- b. Touching base with Casey at Green Mountain Orchards during plant sale prep week and event day of, coordinating where everything is going to be
- c. Trying to coordinate tents, size of tents, and where they will go
- d. Went over staff and volunteer schedules for plant sale prep week

- e. Discussed supplies needed for plant sale prep week and for the day of
- f. Abby would like to put together some sort of history of the district presentation, asked for material ideas
- g. Abby is also trying to put together a raffle, with prizes from local businesses
 - i. Meg will donate another free riding lesson; reaching out to other connections
 - ii. Local artists? Putney Diner? Honey? Coop? Bookstores? Brattleboro Country Store & Deli?

Secretary's Report

- 1. Approve minutes from March 26, 2026**
 - a. Meg moves that we accept the minutes**
 - b. Pieter seconds motion**
 - c. No additions/edits, can vote even if you weren't at the meeting
 - d. Everyone in favor, none opposed, motion passed 8:13PM**

Review Upcoming Supervisor Meeting Dates:

- 1. Next meeting: TBD**
 - a. Next meeting: May 6th, tentatively at Geof's

Other Business

- None

Motion to go Into Executive Session for personnel issues:

- **Seconded**
- **All in favor, none opposed**
- **Passed 8:18PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Arrow Branwen

Motion was made & seconded to come out of Executive Session for personnel issues @ 8:25 PM. Motion Passed.

Motion made and seconded to approve having the district reimburse an employee for tax filing assistance resulting from difficulties with Quickbooks producing an accurate W2 on-time @ 8:25 PM. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn @ 8:27 PM. Motion passed.

Addendum respectfully submitted by Linda Corse